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DATE: March 2, 2004

TO: U.S. Patent & Trademark Office
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FAX NO.: 1-703-872-9315

FROM: Steven M. Jensen

FAX NO.: 617-439-4170

Our Docket No.: 49855-CPA (70904)

No. of Pages (incl. cover): 11

Re: U.S. Serial Number 09/578,440

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Docket No. 49855-CPA (70904)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPLICANT: H. Washio et al.

U.S. SERIAL NO.: 09/578,440

GROUP: 2674

FILED: May 25, 2000

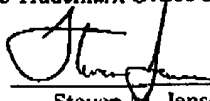
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By: 
Steven M. Jensen

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

AMENDMENT

Applicants are in receipt of the Office Action dated January 2, 2004 of the above-referenced application. Please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.